What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring nucleic acid amplification comprising:

performing nucleic acid amplification on a target polynucleotide wherein the amplification is carried out using any method using a first oligonucleotide probe and a second shorter oligonucleotide probe varying in length by at least about 2 base pairs;

the first probe having a fluorophore;

the second being complementary with the first probe and having a quencher molecule capable of quenching the fluorescence of said fluorophore, the fluorophore and quencher being attached on their respective probes at positions which results in the quencher molecule quenching the fluorescence of the fluorophore when the probes are hybridized,

wherein the longer probe binds preferentially to the target polynucleotide and when preferentially bound to the target polynucleotide the fluorescence intensity of the fluorophore is greater than the fluorescence intensity of the fluorophore when hybridized to the second probe, and

monitoring the fluorescence of the flurorphore, the generation of fluorescence corresponding to the occurrence of nucleic acid amplification.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid polymerase is a thermostable nucleic acid polymerase.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorophore on the first probe and the quencher molecule on the second probe are on the same hybridized base pair.

~~4~~ 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorophore and quencher molecules are within about 1 to 3 hybridized base pairs of each other.

~~5~~ 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the flurorphore and quencher molecules are within 3 or more hybridized base pairs of each other.

~~6~~ 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorophore is on the 5' terminal nucleotide of the first probe and the quencher is on the 3' terminal nucleotide of the second probe.

~~7~~ 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the fluorophore is on the 3' terminal nucleotide of the first probe and the quencher is on the 5' terminal nucleotide of the second probe.

~~8~~ 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the second probe is shorter than the first probe by deletion of 3 or 3' terminal nucleotides from the nucleotide sequence of the first probe.

~~9~~ 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the second probe is shorter than the first probe by deletion of 3 or more 3' terminal nucleotides from the nucleotide sequence of the first probe.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein the second probe is shorter than the first probe by deletion of 3 or more 5' terminal nucleotides, and deletion of 1 or more 3' terminal nucleotides of the first probe.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second probes have a disassociation temperature difference of 2 degrees or more.

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13. A method for detecting the presence of specific nucleic acid sequences in a prepared nucleic acid sample comprising:

placing a sample of nucleic acids in a suitable solution and incubating with a first oligonucleotide probe and a second shorter oligonucleotide probe varying in length by about at least 2 base pairs;

the first probe having a fluorophore;

the second being complementary with the first probe and having a quencher molecule capable of quenching the fluorescence of said fluorophore, the fluorophore and quencher being attached on their respective probes at positions which results in the quencher molecule quenching the fluorescence of the fluorophore when the probes are hybridized,

wherein the longer probe binds preferentially to the target polynucleotide and when preferentially bound to the target polynucleotide the fluorescence intensity of the fluorophore is greater than the fluorescence intensity of the fluorophore when hybridized to the second probe, and

monitoring the fluorescence of the flurorphore, the generation of fluorescence corresponding to the presence of specific nucleic acid sequences.

add a1

Table I

CV 03 SEQ

N		61	71	81	91	1	11	21	31	
3151	SGGDIYHSVS	HARPRWFWFC	LLLLAAGVGI	YLLPNRBASE	CNTACGTRIG	INGCCAGCCC	CCTGATGGGG	GCGACACTCC	ACCATGAATC	
N		51	61	71	81	91	1	11	21	
3241	ACTCCCCTGT	GAGGAACTAC	TGTCTTCACG	CAGAAAGCGT	CTAGCCATGG	CGTTAGTATG	AGTGTCGTGC	AGCCTCCAGG	ACCCCCCCTC	329(
						Primer F				
N		41	51	61	71	81	91	1	11	
3331	F CCGGGAGAGC	CATAGTGGTC	TGCGGAACCG	GTGAGTACAC	CGGAATTGCC	AGGACGACCG	GGTCCTTTCT	TGGATAAACC	CGCTCAATGC	
	Probes (C1, C2)									
N		31	41	51	61	71	81	91	1	
3421	CTGGAGATTT	GGGCGTGCCC	CCGCAAGACT	GCTAGCCGAG	TAGTGTTGGG	TCGCGAAAGG	CCTTGTGGTA	CTGCCTGATA	GGGTGCTTGC	
N		21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	
3511	GAGTGCCCCG	GGAGGTCTCG	TAGACCGTGC	ACCATGAGCA	CGAATCCTAA	ACCTCAAAGA	AAAACCAAAC	GTAACACCAA	CCGTCGCCCA	
			Primer R							